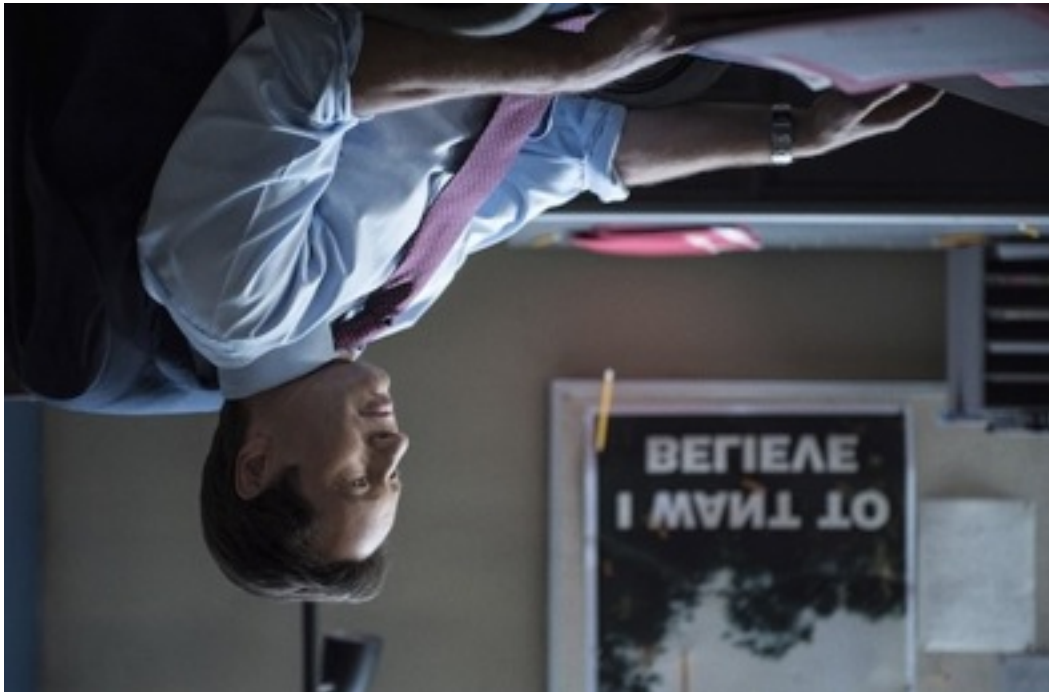

The Death Of “Conspiracy Culture”

This Is How It Happens

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It is very hard to write about “oddball” topics when our current reality has become one big oddball topic.

For example, if I try to write about “weird science”—there is quickly becoming no weird science, it is all just mainstream science (no matter how shocking certain things may sound to our virgin ears). The biggest conspiratorial intrigues I could muster to write about—Nixon, Manson, batshit crazy secret cabals, etc.—seem to pale when compared to the current situation (the depths of which, once fully known, I think will go far deeper than anything else we could currently imagine).

I became an adult in the early 1990s, when a whole explosion of what could be called “fringe” or “conspiracy culture” was in full bloom. It was a collision of New Agey esoteric teachings, far-Left “hippie culture,” far-Right “paranoia culture,” UFOlogy, wacky Biblical prophecies,

cyberpunk, ironic-hip “parody religions,” chaos magick, and so on. If you are not old enough to remember this time—well, *I* liked it. It was wild, ideas were flying and colliding into each other and mutating, and there probably won’t be another era like it.

Iconic television shows like *Twin Peaks* and *The X-Files* were born from that culture. And soon, it infiltrated the mainstream. “Conspiracy Culture”-lite, “alien chic,” etc.

But there was a darker thread that ran parallel to all this—a thread whose collective heart paradoxically leapt at the idea of the approaching new Millennium, Y2K, possible Armageddon. And when Doomsday didn’t happen, but 9/11 *did*...a whole new phase of “Conspiracy Culture” was born.

At first, this significantly “heightened” subculture—assisted by the rise of the Internet—seemed somewhat bipartisan ideologically. So many people felt shellshocked by 9/11, and the questionable wars that followed. It gets lost in all the daily Trump insanity now, but back then George W. Bush was constantly in the news for doing and saying dumb stuff. Again: a significant percentage of the people who spoke out against Bush back then were of both ends of the ideological spectrum.

But after Barack Obama was elected, things changed dramatically in “Conspiracy Culture.” And what once was a focus on things like corrupt corporations, the robbing of personal freedoms in the wake of 9/11, and the Deep State (the most significant of the essays on this topic, [“Anatomy of the Deep State,”](#) coming not from a right-wing website but rather *Bill Moyers*)—now became a focus on race, sex, religion, culture. “Fringe” topics like UFOs, the Kennedy Assassination, cryptids, and so on were on the wane, replaced with obsessions with Obama, Hillary Clinton, “SJWs,” and on and on.

Here is where things started to turn to shit in “Conspiracy Culture.”

There were also many cases where fringe topics like UFOlogy would get “hijacked” or “hybridized” with this new focus on race & culture. And heck, if we look at the esoteric origins of some of the early UFO “lore”—as opposed to the witness and research stuff being done from the 1950s onward—well, we end up finding fucked-up theories about racial superiority anyway. That’s not to discount the hard work of UFOlogists who want nothing to do with that stuff, but it’s the truth. The Nazis based a lot of their folklore/mythology on these early books that mixed visitors from other planets, Eastern philosophy, and theories of “superior races”; there are even theories that they developed technology that resembled (and might have been mistaken for) UFOs.

Anyway, so we had this radical “split” in “Conspiracy Culture” during the Obama administration, though it only seemed to get *really* bad by around 2012 or so. A lot of the older conspiracy writers/theorists who were more left-wing got massively weirded out by the sea-change in their genre; and some of the more right-wing decided to just take the plunge and go “all in” on the race/culture stuff.

Around this time, I believe, at least one or more “outside interests” decided to get involved with the shift in this subculture, accelerate it, and use it for their own ends. I believe that culminated in the election of Donald Trump and what we have right now.

And what we have is the “death” of that earlier “Conspiracy Culture.”

You can’t operate on a “platform” of wanting to get to the Truth, of speaking “Truth To Power,” of restoring power to the People, and then look at the sum total of Trump and seriously say: “*that’s* the person who is going to make it all better again.” You can’t pontificate long and hard on the evils of the Deep State and then conclude at the end that a narcissistic millionaire who hires all his family and surrounds himself with the corporate/political equivalent of the Dick Tracy rogues gallery is the Savior.

And yet this is what has happened.

It’s just not “funny” anymore, guys. Not even the Discordian “fake religion” stuff from the Left is funny anymore; because *it’s fucking already happened!* **And the tools for possible mind liberation and positive changes in human consciousness bequeathed to us by some of the most brilliant freethinking minds of the last 50 years have been hijacked and used for exactly the opposite of what they intended.**

Part of what this all means is that serious discussion on the core issues of many in the “old” fringe community—freedom of speech, corporate control and influence, government corruption—is going to be publicly “shut down,” to an extent, as a sort of “triage” maneuver for the seriously divided situation we in the United States (and perhaps globally) have found ourselves in.

It is hard to have a serious discussion on the application of free speech to that Google memo guy when Nazis are literally dancing in conga lines on national TV and calling for Jews to die. It is hard to have a serious discussion about the Deep State when the White Nationalist standing next to you is using the “Deep State” as synonymous for “people who are against White Nationalists.”

That is what I mean by “triage”—we are in a “triage” situation.

Because the truth of the matter is, Hitler used the idea of “free speech” as a way to spread his ideas and get into power—and then he was *done* with free speech. That is the paradox of Free Speech.

And so I can give you a scenario how this is all going to go down, if you are interested.

Following Charlottesville, there will unfortunately be more violence; and probably violence, and violent rhetoric, to an extent that will contribute to quite significant changes in the current line-up at the White House.

Many of these alt-right extremist groups, pushed off mainstream web platforms and either going Dark Web or getting hosted by peeps in I dunno, say, *Russia maybe*, will only get more intense and radicalized.

More violence and chaos. And as this goes on, there will be greater “purges” online of this “fringe” material. And caught up in these purges will be websites and videos that were sort of on the “fringe” of the extreme fringe material. And a bunch of well-known sites will probably get “pulled” and/or get foreign hosting and/or go on the Dark Web.

And I think, in the aftermath of all this, a number of media people in the “alt-right” will probably move overseas to Russia & etc. and continue to work from there.

Meanwhile, in the U.S.—in part because of the accelerating “Russia Probes”—there will be a general “purge” and paranoia over who might be Russian agents/Neo-Nazi sympathizers in media and government. A lot of this will be in reaction to the increasingly frightening situation in this divided country, in terms of violence. A lot of this will be because of the intentionally polarizing clusterfuck Trump himself set up.

And once Trump is gone, even with a Republican in the presidential seat, there will be such a sense of “relief” within a portion of the public (the portion who will not be rioting in the streets calling for a secession from the Union) and the mainstream media/entertainment complex that any “radical” questioning or calls for change—whether on the Left or Right—will be shooed away.

The “fringe” media that is left on the mainstream web...well, a bunch of them will go back to the 90’s-era “safe” topics: UFOlogy, ghosts, Bigfoot, etc. Stuff like the JFK assassination is still OK, because enough time has passed. But contemporary political issues will be largely dropped.

This is also why the new season of The X-Files is staying away from “mythology” (read: “conspiracy”) storylines and focusing on monsters-of-the-week, by the way.

So where does that leave serious discussions about freedom of speech, corporate control and influence, government corruption? Well, those discussions are largely fucked. And you can thank the numerous assholes in the public eye who knowingly conflated/hybridized these topics with racist/sexist/homophobic/fascist talking points for some of that.

One of my favorite movies is the original *The Day The Earth Stood Still*. At the end, the alien Klaatu gives a speech that is both inspiring...and *terrifying*. He explains how on his homeworld, things got so bad that robot “police” had to be installed to keep the peace. These robots were programmed with basic concepts of “right” and “wrong,” and would basically handle anybody who tried to disturb the peace by vaporizing them. His fellow citizens basically admitted that they could not be “trusted” to have things like free speech or any sort of conflict whatsoever.

Were the people on Klaatu's planet *wrong*? If you would have asked me a few weeks ago, I would have given an unequivocal "yes."

Now, it's possible—if I was a super-paranoid conspiracy theorist—that this entire thing with Trump was "meant," on some level, as an excuse to install more controls against the masses. That by having a "cartoon villain" as President, emboldening Nazis to dance in the streets, a new situation was created that would fairly "beg" for tighter government and social controls as to reestablish peace and civility.

Sure, it's possible. But here's the thing. *I'm beginning to not care anymore. I'm tired.* I've observed "Conspiracy Culture" for over 20 years now, and "The Truth Is Out There" didn't mean making fun of a dead woman who was killed by a domestic terrorist, or spray-painting swastikas on synagogues, or shouting racial slurs at passersby, or rambling some fucking nonsense about Jews who "look like Seinfeld" dressing up like fake Nazis as part of a "false-flag."

The bottom line: many of the people who "led the charge" for getting to the truth of government, corporations, science, and etc. utterly betrayed what they had professed to believe in. If they ever truly believed in those things at all in the first place.

And the Truth, as always, will be the thing to ultimately suffer for it.

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